

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

1. (Previously Presented) A book management apparatus for managing book stocks of a plurality of individual libraries through a network, comprising:

book stock information management means for managing book stock information which is information about book stocks of individual libraries;

bibliographic information management means for managing bibliographic information comprising attributes of books managed by said book stock information management means;

loan information management means for managing loan information about a loan of the book stocks of the individual libraries;

ordering information management means for managing ordering information on books newly ordered from the individual libraries;

ordering means for placing an order with a book wholesaler, based on the ordering information managed by the ordering information management means;

collation information receiving means for generating collation information when a book ordered by the ordering means has been previously ordered by another individual library, said collation information including information identifying each individual library that has ordered the book;

collation information transmitting means for transmitting the collation information generated by the collation information receiving means to the wholesaler; and

loan reserving means for registering a book in said book stock information management means as a loan reserved book when a request for loan reserving is entered,

wherein,

when a loan of a book is conducted between different libraries, said loan information management means enables a predetermined library to modify the loan information of another library,

said book stock information management means registers an information whether the book is collated or not to said book stock information based on said ordering information and said collation information, and

said loan reserving means registers a book in said book stock information management means as a loan reserved and unavailable book when the requested book is not yet delivered.

2-5. (Cancelled).

6. (Previously Presented) The book management apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said ordering means places an order at a price reduced in accordance with an order quantity.

7. (Previously Presented) The book management apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising

reduced price estimating means for looking up the ordering information managed by said ordering information management means, to estimate a reduced price of a book which a library is going to order.

8. (Previously Presented) The book management apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising

statistical information generating means for looking up the loan information managed by said loan information management means or the ordering information managed by said ordering information management means, to generate statistical information about loan or ordering of books; and

providing means for providing the statistical information generated by said statistical information generating means to the individual libraries.

9. (Original) The book management apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising request receiving means for receiving a request from a user;

searching means, responsive to reception of a request for search for a book by said request receiving means, for searching the book stock information for information about a matching book; and

search result transmitting means for transmitting a result of search by said searching means to the user from whom the request has been received.

10. (Original) The book management apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising keyword registration means for registering a predetermined keyword if book stock information matching the book was not found by said searching means; and

newly registered information transmitting means, responsive to new registration into the book stock information of a book matching the keyword registered by said keyword registration means, for transmitting the newly registered information about the book to a user with respect to whom the keyword has been registered.

11. (Cancelled).

12. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable recording medium storing a program for causing a computer to perform a process of managing book stocks of a plurality of individual libraries through a network, wherein the computer is caused to perform at least:

managing book stock information about book stocks of individual libraries;

managing bibliographic information comprising attributes of books managed in the managing;

managing loan information about a loan of the book stocks of the individual libraries;

managing ordering information on books newly ordered from the individual libraries;

placing an order with a book wholesaler, based on the managed ordering information;

generating collation information when an ordered book has been previously ordered by another individual library, said collation information including information identifying each individual library that has ordered the book;

transmitting the collation information to the wholesaler; and

registering an ordered book in book stock information as a loan reserved book when a request for loan reserving is entered,

wherein,

when a loan of a book is conducted between different libraries, said managing loan information enables a predetermined library to modify the loan information of another library,

information whether the book is collated or not to said book stock information is registered based on said ordering information and said collation information, and

a book is registered in said book stock information management means as a loan reserved and unavailable book when the requested book is not yet delivered.

13-14. (Cancelled).